

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, UNGA

SUBJECT: SIXTH COMMITTEE (LEGAL) -- CHARTER REVIEW

SUMMARY: PERU, BENIN, DEMOCRATIC YEMEN, YEMEN, POLAND, UNITED KINGDOM, CHAD, HUNGARY, CONGO, PAKISTAN, GABON, FRANCE, AUSTRIA, SUDAN, US, NEPAL, SIERRA LEONE, CANADA AND EGYPT ADDRESSED COMMITTEE ON NOV 17. ISRAEL EXERCISED RIGHT OF REPLY TO SUDAN. POLAND, HUNGARY, UK, CANADA, FRANCE AND US SPOKE IN OPPOSITION TO AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER. IN THEIR STATEMENTS IN FAVOR OF CHARTER REVIEW, PERU, BENIN, POLAND, CHAD, CONGO, SUDAN AND SIERRA LEONE MADE REFERENCE TO "RECENT MISUSE OF THE VETO BY A PERMANENT MEMBER". END SUMMARY.

1. PERU ENDORSED THE NEED FOR CHARTER REVIEW BY REFERRING TO THE "UNJUSTIFIED USE" OF THE VETO BY PERMANENT MEMBERS IN APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP CASES. SAID AMENDMENTS TO CHARTER WERE NECESSARY TO GUARANTEE EQUALITY OF SOVEREIGNS.

2. BENIN SAID THAT ALTHOUGH UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES OF THE CHARTER DID NOT NEED TO BE CHANGED, THE ORGANIC PART OF THE UN HAD TO BE ACCOMMODATED TO WORLD SITUATION. SAID THAT THOSE WHO RESISTED CHANGE FEARED THE POWER OF THE THIRD WORLD. GAVE THE EXAMPLE OF STATES THAT PREVENT THE ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS BY USE OF THE VETO. SAID THAT

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THE ELIMINATION OF THE VETO WOULD DESTROY THE EFFECTIVENESS

OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL SO URGED THAT LIMITATIONS BE PLACED ON ITS USE. SUGGESTED THAT NO VETO COULD BE EXERCISED WITHOUT THE CONCURRENCE OF TWO OTHER PERMANENT MEMBERS. ALSO CALLED FOR AN INCREASE IN THE POWER OF THE GA WITH RESPECT TO PEACE AND SECURITY. URGED MEMBERS TO IMPLEMENT THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE GA AND CALLED FOR STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE UN.

3. DEMOCRATIC YEMEN URGED GA TO CONTINUE THE MANDATE OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE. SAID THAT THE MAIN PROBLEM IS THAT STATES DO NOT RESPECT INTERNATIONAL LAW WHEN THEIR OWN INTERESTS ARE AT STAKE. SAID CERTAIN STATE STILL USES THE VETO TO PREVENT ONE STATE FROM CONTRIBUTING TO THE UN. CALLED UPON ALL MEMBERS TO HONOR THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CHARTER.

4. YEMEN CALLED UPON THE GA TO RENEW THE MANDATE OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE BECAUSE THERE WAS MUCH WORK REMAINING TO BE DONE. WITHOUT SPECIFYING, SAID THAT CERTAIN ARTICLES NEEDED REVISION. ALSO SAID THAT THE ROLE OF THE UN MUST BE STRENGTHENED.

5. POLAND SAID THAT THE CHARTER WAS THE MOST SOLID FOUNDATION OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. SAID IT WAS NOT THE FAULT OF THE UN CHARTER THAT PROBLEMS SUCH AS CYPRUS, RACISM AND MISUSE OF THE VETO OCCURRED. SUGGESTED THAT THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE MIGHT SUSPEND ITS WORK UNTIL AD HOC COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING FINISHED ITS WORK.

6. UK MADE BRIEF STATEMENT REFERRING MEMBERS TO ITS PREVIOUS STATEMENTS. URGED THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO CONCENTRATE ON AREAS OF COMMON AGREEMENT.

7. CHAD SAID THAT THE CHARTER SHOULD BE AMENDED TO REFLECT THE RISING POWER OF THE NON-ALIGNED. SAID THE SECURITY COUNCIL SHOULD NOT BE A MONOPOLY OF THE GREAT POWERS AND CRITICIZED MISUSE OF THE VETO IN DENYING ADMISSION TO VIET NAM AND ANGOLA.

8. HUNGARY SAID THE CHARTER HAS STOOD THE TEST OF TIME
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AND THERE IS NO NEED TO AMEND IT. INSTEAD CALLED UPON THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO CONCENTRATE UPON AREAS OF COMMON AGREEMENT. SAID THAT THE COMMITTEE SHOULD INCREASE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE UN, THAT ALL MEMBERS SHOULD OBSERVE ITS PRINCIPLES AND THAT ALL MEMBERS SHOULD FOLLOW ITS RESOLUTIONS.

9. CONGO ARGUED THAT THE UN MUST ADAPT ITS STRUCTURES TO

THE REALITIES OF THE PRESENT DAYS; SAID THAT THE VETO IS A THREAT TO UNIVERSALITY AND VIOLATES THE PRINCIPLE OF THE SOVEREIGN EQUALITY OF STATES.

10. PAKISTAN SAID THAT MAIN PROBLEM IN UN WAS RELUCTANCE OF MEMBERS, ESPECIALLY PERMANENT MEMBERS, TO FOLLOW THE RELEVANT PRINCIPLES AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE UN. HOWEVER, SUGGESTED THAT REVIEW OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE.

11. GABON CALLED FOR REVIEW AND AMENDMENT OF THE CHARTER. SAID VETO WAS INAPPROPRIATE AND ANACHRONISTIC MECHANISM. SAID IT HAD BEEN MISUSED, AND THAT SOUTH AFRICA WAS STILL A MEMBER BUT OTHERS WERE NOT BECAUSE OF IT.

12. FRANCE URGED THE COMITE TO CONTINUE ITS WORK BY CONCENTRATING ON AREAS OF COMMON AGREEMENT.

13. SUDAN SAID IT WAS UNREALISTIC TO BELIEVE THAT THE VETO MIGHT BE ELIMINATED, BUT SAID THAT WAS A DESIRABLE THOUGHT. SAID THAT IT COULD NOT BLINDLY WATCH THE DISGRACEFUL USE OF THE VETO. SAID THAT TWO STATES, "RACIST ISRAEL AND RACIST SOUTH AFRICA", REMAINED IN THE UN WHILE TWO OTHER STATES WERE DENIED ADMISSION. THEREFORE ADVOCATED THAT VETO NOT BE EXERCISABLE IN CASES OF ADMISSION OF STATES. ALSO SUGGESTED THAT NON-MEMBERS ATTEND THE WORK OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE AS OBSERVERS.

14. US STATEMENT, AS DELIVERED, IS BEING POUCHED TO HARTLEY, UNP.

15. NEPAL SAID THAT AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER WERE NEEDED IN ORDER TO ENSHRINE NIEO, TO MAKE RESOLUTIONS BINDING ON

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STATES, AND TO ELIMINATE MASSIVE POVERTY. SAID THAT THE CHARTER WAS PRESENTLY LACKING PROVISIONS ON SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, POLLUTION, AND OUTER SPACE. URGED THE SIXTH COMITE TO EXTEND THE MANDATE OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

16. SIERRA LEONE ENDORSED RESOLUTION CALLING FOR EXTENSION OF MANDATE OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE. MADE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS: FIRST, THAT ALL REGIONAL ARRANGEMENTS BE SUBORDINATED TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CHARTER. THIRD, THAT THE UN TAKE STEPS TO PUBLICIZE ITS ACTIONS. FOURTH, THAT THE ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE BE EXPANDED AND THAT ALL NATIONS ACCEPT ITS JURISDICTION.

17. CANADA SAID THAT THE CHARTER HAD PROVEN FLEXIBLE IN

THE PAST. HOWEVER THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT REVIEW WAS NECESSARILY BAD. IT WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT THERE WERE NOT MORE AREAS OF CONSENSUS IN THE LAST SESSION OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE. SAID MAJOR CHANGES IN THE CHARTER MAY NOT BE ADVISABLE. STRESSED THAT THE COMITE SHOULD WORK WITHIN THE BASIC STRUCTURE OF THE CHARTER TO MEET CONTEMPORARY REALITIES.

18. EGYPT SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN CHANGES IN THE CHARTER, AND THAT THIS PROVES THAT AMENDMENTS ARE POSSIBLE. ALSO SAID THAT THE CHARTER ITSELF CONTEMPLATES AMENDMENTS. CALLED UPON THE COMITE TO STRENGTHEN THE ROLE OF THE UN AND SAID THAT THIS COULD BE DONE IN MANY INSTANCES WITHOUT AMENDMENTS. SAID THAT THESE PROPOSALS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FIRST. HOWEVER, INDICATED THAT PROPOSALS ON PEACEKEEPING, DECOLONIZATION, AND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS MIGHT NECESSITATE AMENDMENT OF THE CHARTER.

19. ISRAEL EXERCISED RIGHT OF REPLY TO SUDANESE STATEMENT THAT IT WAS A RACIST STATE. SAID SUDAN LACKED "CLEAN HANDS" BECAUSE OF TEN YEARS OF GENOCIDEAL PERSECUTION OF THE TRIBES IN ITS SOUTHERN PART. SAID THAT THERE ARE OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA IN OTHER COMMITTEES WHERE IT WAS APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS THE PRACTICES OF ISRAEL.

20. SUDAN BRIEFLY EXERCISED RIGHT OF REPLY AND SAID THAT
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ITS PROBLEMS HAD BEEN CAUSED BY EXTERNAL FORCES.
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